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Assembly California Legislature

JOHN LAIRD
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY SEVENTH DISTRICT

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August 29, 2007

Dear Friends,

I regret that business at the State Capitol has prevented me from attending tonight's meeting to discuss the California Department of Food & Agriculture's (CDFA) plans for aerial spraying of a pheromone to disrupt Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) mating. I have been contacted by many constituents who have expressed deep concern about CDFA's plans.

I am taking these concerns very seriously. On August 22nd I spoke to A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of the CDFA, and pressed the need for a thorough public process whereby people can be heard and get their questions answered. I've also spoken with Monterey Mayor Della Sala regarding the situation.

On Tuesday of this week in my Sacramento office, I met with Secretary Kawamura, as well as a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), so that they could provide me with an in-person briefing about LBAM and the CDFA's eradication plans. In my meeting with the Secretary, I emphasized the importance of conducting an open process that provides ample opportunity to ask questions about LBAM and the science on which the spraying plans are based.

I am pleased Secretary Kawamura has responded to my concerns about the public process by conducting tonight's forum. My expectation is that the public is provided a full opportunity tonight to raise concerns and receive forthright responses from officials.

The LBAM situation is both urgent and complicated, involving two issues of critical importance: public health and safety, and our local economy. For that reason, it is critical we have a comprehensive process that emphasizes sound science and community input.

For more information about LBAM, including the USDA's Environmental Assessment, CDFA's letter to the City of Monterey, recent news articles and other information, please visit my Website and click on the "Light Brown Apple Moth" section at www.assembly.ca.gov/laird.

Sincerely,



JOHN LAIRD, Assemblymember
27th District